



# SAFETY CONNECTION

SUMMER ISSUE

JUNE 2007

## VISION

Through public and private partnerships, achieve the most improved and sustainable downward trend in highway fatalities and injuries in the nation.

## MISSION

To be the vital link in the Commonwealth's chain of transportation safety by elevating the emphasis on highway and traffic safety.

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## Governor Fletcher, Transportation Cabinet Officials Announce Median Cable Barrier Project for Lexington's New Circle Road

### \$2.4 million Investment Designed to Improve Safety

Work crews will soon begin installing a median cable barrier system on New Circle Road in Lexington. The cable barriers will stretch from Old Frankfort Pike, south to Richmond Road, which is a distance of just over eight miles. Governor Fletcher's Chief of Staff Stan Cave announced the \$2.4 million project to community leaders during an event at Cardinal Park South.

"These median cable barrier systems are extremely efficient in preventing cross-over crashes. This investment will greatly improve safety for the 70,000 motorists who drive along New Circle Road each day," said Cave. "Governor Fletcher always stresses that transportation projects be based on safety and economic impact. The assurance of funding for this project further illustrates the Governor's unwavering commitment to improving safety on our transportation network."

The \$2.4 million project has been awarded to the George B. Stone Company. Work is anticipated to begin within the next few weeks. The project is scheduled to be completed later this summer. All work is scheduled on a tentative basis and is subject to change depending on weather conditions, emergencies and other factors beyond the control of the Department of Highways.

"As our community continues to thrive and grow, we can expect a corresponding increase in traffic," said Sen. Alice Forgy Kerr (R-Lexington). "We are most grateful for Governor Fletcher's decision to make this important investment in highway safety for Lexington and Fayette County. Kentucky is very fortunate to have a governor who is diligent in exploring every possible option in the effort to



(L-R) Representative Stan Lee, Deputy Secretary Crystal Murray-Ducker, Chief of Staff Stan Cave, Commissioner Tim Hazlette, Mayor Jim Newberry

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## Aggressive Driving: Victim or Aggressor?

Aggressive driving has become a serious problem on Kentucky's roadways. If you have ever been passed on the wrong side, tailgated, cut off or hemmed in by another vehicle, you have been the victim of an aggressive driver.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that about one-third of all crashes and about two-thirds of the resulting fatalities can be attributed to aggressive driving. In 2006, as many as 26% of collisions and 39% of fatalities in Kentucky could be attributed to aggressive driving. Reducing these incidents by addressing this behavior is critical to the Department of Transportation Safety's mission. Individual driving behaviors and decisions can lead to the loss of life or serious injury to our friends, family, and children. As safety partners, we must work to change these behaviors through enforcement, education, and assistance.

We live in a fast paced society and everyone is in a hurry to arrive at their destination. However, we must share the commitment to highway safety and arrive without incident or injury. June is Aggressive Driving Month. Please take a few minutes to review the tip sheet provided in this month's issue. Share this information with others and adopt these safety tips into your everyday driving practices.



**Commissioner  
Tim Hazlette**

## Kentucky's Department of Transportation Safety Growing Strong To Reduce Injuries and Fatalities

The Department of Transportation Safety is Kentucky's focal point for highway safety issues. The Department continues to grow in its efforts address Kentucky's Strategic Highway Safety Plan and reduce the potential, frequency, rate, and severity of motor vehicle crashes.

Effective June 16, the Department will serve as the administrator of those highway safety programs funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), supporting Secretary Bill Nighbert, who is the Governor's Highway Safety Representative. The Division of Highway Safety Administration will be established to provide planning, research, grants management, program monitoring to support the highway safety mission. The Department will now have a comprehensive approach to safety from research, grants for program funding, educational programs, and public awareness campaigns to incident management.

## Department of Transportation Safety Gets Healthy! Staff Takes the Governor's Challenge and Wins



The Department of Transportation Safety recently took Governor Fletcher's fitness challenge to Get Healthy. Dividing into two teams, the Division of Transportation Security and the Division of Highway Safety Programs, competed in a test of physical endurance, logging countless miles over a 12-week period. In the end, there were few employees left standing.

The winners for the Division of Transportation Security include: Ashley Jenkins, first place; Tammy Yount, second place; and Scott Pieratt, third place. Winners of the Division of Highway Safety Programs include: Jack Hutchinson, first place; Dennis Gardner, second place; and Marsha Moore, third place. Way to go team!

**(L-R) Jack Hutchinson, Commissioner Tim Hazlette, Ashley Jenkins, Tammy Yount, Dennis Gardner, Scott Pieratt, Marsha Moore**



## Take Me Out to the Ballgame...

# Transportation Safety Takes the Field During the University of Kentucky Versus Auburn Baseball Series

It wasn't all about peanuts, popcorn, and cracker jacks for UK Baseball fans during their recent series with Auburn University. It was about transportation safety, buckling up, and not drinking and driving. The Department of Transportation Safety sponsored the baseball series to raise awareness on these important safety issues.

The Department was recognized during each night of the three game series with the first pitch of the evening and through various safety announcements during the game. Commissioner Tim Hazlette participated in an on-air interview during Friday's game to promote the importance of highway safety. A fatal vision goggle demonstration also took place between innings to show the affects of driving impaired. Secretary Nighbert presented a check to the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) as part of the promotion. The check was also presented in honor of the late Jerry Lamb, a member of the Department of Transportation Safety's team who recently passed away.



Secretary Bill Nighbert presents a check to MADD Representative Tara McGuire

Transportation Safety's own Jack Hutchinson makes the first pitch for Thursday's game. Jack is also a former UK player.



On his birthday, Connor Slone, son of KYTC employee Brent Slone, throws out first pitch.



Can he pick up the ball with fatal vision goggles?

Secretary Nighbert watches as his son throws out the first pitch.



## Buckle Up Kentucky: It's the Law and It's Enforced Campaign Kicks Off At the Kentucky Speedway

Racing fans buckled up and started their engines for racing season! The Department of Transportation Safety and the Kentucky State Police came together for the Automobile Racing Club of America (ARCA) RE/MAX Series "Buckle Up Kentucky 150" race for an action packed day of fast cars and country music. As law enforcement from across the state and transportation safety partners converged upon the Kentucky Speedway, racing fans were reminded about the importance of wearing a seatbelt.

The seatbelt campaign is entitled "Buckle Up Kentucky: It's the Law and It's Enforced" to coincide with the national "Click it or Ticket" campaign. The seat belt usage rate in Kentucky is 67.2 percent compared to the national rate which is 81 percent.



Secretary Bill Nighbert and Executive Secretary Robbie Rudolph present Buckle Up 150 Trophy to Winner Erik Darnell



Miss Kentucky Rachelle Phillips Joins Mascots Before Starting the Race

(Continued on last page)



## Law Enforcement and Transportation Safety Partners with McDonalds® to Promote Seat Belt Safety in Eastern Kentucky



Law enforcement and first responders from Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky recently joined together with McDonalds® today for the annual "I'm Buckled Up and I'm Lovin' It" event to promote seat belt safety in the tri-state area. May is the designated month for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) "Click it or Ticket" seat belt campaign. McDonald's was an essential part of the program by providing free food coupons for each customer who entered the "drive-thru" area and was properly wearing their seat belt.

Bob Hutchison, McDonald's franchise owner said, "McDonald's has been and continues to be a community and family oriented business. We are excited to partner up with the Kentucky State Police, Governor Fletcher's Highway Safety Program and other local law enforcement agencies. This program which McDonald's is proud to be part of, will enhance the safety of children and their families" added Hutchison.

Law enforcement officers, medical personnel and other highway safety volunteers passed out coupons and seat belt information during the event. Law enforcement officers did not issue citations to those not wearing their seat belt on the parking lots, but unrestrained occupants received a card with crash statistics from the three states to encourage seat belt use. The current seat belt usage rate in Kentucky is 67 percent, Ohio is 81 percent and West Virginia is 89 percent. If seat belt use had been 100 percent in those three states, an estimated 1,707 lives would have been saved. In 2006, there were 286,978 motor vehicle crashes in the three states. In those crashes, 2,524 people died and an additional 81,542 people were injured.

During a press conference held during the event Representative Hubert "Hubie" Collins addressed the crowd regarding Kentucky's seat belt legislation. Boyd Sigler from the Kentucky Department of Transportation Safety gave a brief overview of Kentucky statistics and seat belt usage rates across the state. Local Pikeville resident Jatanna Hall shared a personal experience she had in an automobile collision.

"I was in a serious head-on collision and unfortunately, I was not wearing a seat belt. My head crashed through the windshield and I received over seventy-five stitches in my face and severed two arteries. Since that time, I have become a seat belt advocate and encourage everyone to wear their seat belts" said Hall. "It is a miracle that I am here today and I have learned to take 'buckling up' seriously" added Hall.

Transportation Cabinet Secretary Bill Nighbert was recently appointed the state's representative for highway safety by Governor Ernie Fletcher. "Everyone benefits when we work together to improve highway safety and it's a top priority for Governor Fletcher's administration," said Nighbert. "We are pleased to work with McDonald's and our safety partners in Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia to remind folks to buckle up ... Seat belts save lives," said Secretary Nighbert.



(L-R) Pikeville Resident Jatanna Hall, Ronald McDonald, Representative Hubert "Hubie" Collins, Crash Dummies Vince and Larry, Buckle Up Bear, Director Boyd Sigler, McDonald's Franchise Owner Bob Hutchison





# Aggressive Driving

Aggressive driving is operating a motor vehicle in a selfish, pushy, or impatient manner often unsafely, that directly affects other drivers. Although it is difficult to define, aggressive driving is a factor in approximately one-third of Kentucky's collisions.

## Kentucky Safety Facts

### Who Are Aggressive Drivers?

- These high-risk drivers climb into the anonymity of an automobile and take out their frustrations on anybody at any time.
- For them, frustration levels are high and the level for concern for fellow motorists is low
- Their driving habits are:
  - ! Running stop signs and red lights
  - ! Speeding
  - ! Tailgating
  - ! Weaving in-and-out of traffic
  - ! Passing on the right
  - ! Making improper and unsafe lane changes
  - ! Making hand and facial gestures
  - ! Screaming, honking, and flashing their lights
- They drive at speeds far in excess of the norm which causes them to:
  - ! Follow too closely
  - ! Change lanes frequently and abruptly without notice (signals)
  - ! Pass on the shoulder or unpaved portions of the roadway
  - ! Use verbal threats or gestures at motorists in front of them

### How To React To Aggressive Drivers:

- Make every attempt to get out of their way.
- Put your pride aside. Do not challenge them by speeding up or attempting to hold-your-own in your travel lane.
- Avoid eye contact.
- Ignore gestures and refuse to return them.
- Wear your seatbelt—it's the law! It will hold you in your seat in case you must make an abrupt driving maneuver and it will protect you in a crash.
- If you want to take action, report aggressive drivers to the police. Provide a vehicle description, license number, location, and if possible, direction of travel.



# Aggressive Driving *(continued)*

## Don't Be An Aggressive Driver!

- Don't drive while angry, upset, or overly tired.
- Relax! Take a deep breath and turn on calming music which may calm your nerves.
- Plan ahead and allow plenty of time.
- Drive the posted speed limit.
- Avoid traffic congestion by identifying alternate routes.
- Utilize public transportation.
- Just be late!

## Be A Defensive Driver!

Defensive driving means driving so as to prevent crashes in spite of the actions of others or the presence of adverse driving conditions. Basically, you must follow three basic steps:

- **SEE THE HAZARD:** When driving and are about to encounter a hazardous situation, think about what might happen as far ahead as possible. Never assume a condition will have passed before you get there.
- **UNDERSTAND THE DEFENSE:** There are specific ways to handle most situations. Review these situations in your mind so you can act quickly. You may need to slow down, change lanes, or pull over.
- **ACT IN TIME:** Once you see the hazard and decide upon a defense, act immediately. The sooner you act, the more time you have to avoid a crash.

### For More Information

- AAA Exchange: [www.aaapublicaffairs.com](http://www.aaapublicaffairs.com)
- AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety: [www.aaafoundation.org](http://www.aaafoundation.org)
- American Institute for Public Safety Aware Driver: [www.aipsnews.com/awaredriver.html](http://www.aipsnews.com/awaredriver.html)
- American Institute for Public Safety RoadRageous: [www.aipsnews.com/roadrageous.html](http://www.aipsnews.com/roadrageous.html)
- Drivers.com: <http://www.drivers.com/topic/3/>
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)
- National Safety Council: [www.nsc.org/library/facts/defdriv.htm](http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/defdriv.htm)
- The Partnership for Safe Driving: [www.crashprevention.org](http://www.crashprevention.org)





## **Governor Fletcher, Transportation Cabinet Officials Announce Median Cable Barrier Project**

save lives on the Commonwealth's roadways."

"This investment is an example of essential community improvements that are possible when the Governor and Lexington delegation work collaboratively to address local issues," said Rep. Stan Lee (R-Lexington). "I appreciate Governor Fletcher moving this project forward."

"The cable barrier system will effectively eliminate cross-over crashes along this section of New Circle Road," added Tim Hazlette, Commissioner of the Transportation Cabinet's Department of Transportation Safety and Chairman of the Governor's Executive Committee on Highway Safety. "This project, along with other safety initiatives, such as the primary seat belt law and graduated drivers licensing, reinforces Governor Fletcher's commitment to improving highway safety."

Earlier cable barrier projects in Louisville, in which similar systems were installed on I-64, I-71 and I-265, have proven successful in preventing cross-over crashes. To date, the barrier systems in Louisville have been credited with preventing over 70 potential cross-over accidents and in all incidents, the cable barrier has successfully kept vehicles from crossing the median into opposing traffic.

"Safety is at the core of our mission," concluded Transportation Cabinet Secretary Bill Nighbert. "By installing this cable barrier system, we are taking additional steps to try and protect motorists from being involved in a median crossover crash."



## **Louisville Metro Police Department Supports Buckle Up Kentucky**

Louisville Metro Police Department recently joined forces with the Department of Transportation Safety, Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement and Kentucky State Police during May 21 thru June 3 to reduce highway fatalities and convince more motorists to buckle up.

## **New Number for Transportation Cabinet's Highway Hazard Hotline**

**Operators (And Equipment) Standing By at 1-877-FOR-KYTC (1-877-367-5982)**

You can help to inform the Transportation Cabinet of any highway hazards in your area by calling the Highway Hazard Hotline at 1-877-FOR-KYTC (1-877-367-5982).

"We greatly appreciate the public's involvement in our Highway Hazard Hotline and we think this new number 1-877-FOR-KYTC will be easy to remember," Secretary of Transportation Bill Nighbert said. "With our toll-free line, motorists have a direct way to report maintenance concerns or other hazards they see along our state highways. Since our state highway crews can't be everywhere at all times, we depend on drivers to inform us of the needs that are out there. This is one way we can all work together to help fulfill Governor Ernie Fletcher's directive to make our roads safer. We greatly appreciate the public's involvement in our Highway Hazard Hotline."

The new Highway Hazard Hotline, 1-877-FOR-KYTC, is answered 24 hour a day, seven days a week by Transportation Operations Center personnel. The hotline is available throughout the year for the public to report problems with state maintained highways.



## Curious About the Transportation Operations Center (TOC)?

The Transportation Operations Center (TOC) is a 9,000 square foot facility located in the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, 200 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky. The TOC's mission is to collect and disseminate traffic and highway incident information through various media for the traveling public in the Commonwealth. The major focal point of the facility is the 12' x 16' video wall that receives live feeds from hundreds of cameras throughout the Commonwealth.

If the above information piqued your interest, you can request a tour of the facilities. Many schools, state, national and even international agencies and groups have toured the facility. Two recent tours included students from the Lexington Christian Academy and a group from Azerbaijan (formerly part of the old Soviet Union) participated in an advertising seminar hosted by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

Forty children from the Lexington Christian Academy participated in a recent tour. The group learned about 511 emergency, weather service and the TOC's role in adding and updating incidents and construction projects to the system. The children made sure they took the information back to their parents.

A delegation from Azerbaijan, participating in the advertising seminar, joined us for a recent tour with the assistance of an interpreter. They were amazed at the number of cameras located throughout the Commonwealth and expressed major interest in how this information was supplied from one area of the Commonwealth to the TOC.

Tours can be requested by contacting Director Mark Stapleton, Division of Transportation Security, or Branch Manager Jeff Bibb, Highway Communications, at 502-564-2080.



**The Lexington Christian Academy  
Visits The Kentucky Transportation  
Operations Center**



**An Azerbaijan Delegation Joins  
Director Mark Stapleton for a Tour**



## Boyd Sigler Named Director, Division of Highway Safety Programs

Boyd Sigler, a 30-year Transportation Cabinet employee, was recently appointed as Director of the Division of Highway Safety Programs. Most of Sigler's career has been devoted to traffic safety data analysis and educational efforts to save lives and reduce injuries on Kentucky highways. He began the Cabinet's Corridor Safety Program, which soon developed into the nationally known Drive Smart Kentucky program. Sigler currently serves on many national, regional and state highway safety committees, including a recent appointment to the Transportation Research Board's Committee on Transportation Safety Management.

The Division of Highway Safety Programs reviews highway safety data, identifies major causes of fatalities and injuries, and develops and implements the necessary traffic safety programs to inform, educate and protect Kentucky's citizens.

Sigler, a native of western Kentucky, resides in Frankfort with his wife, Karen. They have three children, Michael, Meagan, and Jonathan Moore.



**Boyd Sigler**

## Welcome Bill Hayes, Branch Manager, Division of Transportation Security



**Bill Hayes**

The Department of Transportation Safety would like to welcome Bill Hayes. Effective April 1, 2007, Hayes joined the Division of Transportation Security and serves as branch manager of the Roadway Assistance Branch.

Hayes oversees the Safety Assistance for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) Program, including the highway safety patrol operators and vehicles throughout the Commonwealth. The SAFE Program is designed to assist motorists on Kentucky's interstate and parkway systems. Safe operators provide gasoline and oil, add air to tires or change flat tires, provide a jump or other minor mechanical repairs or assistance. They also tag abandoned vehicles and remove debris from the roadways. Incident management is also an important part of the program. As a first responder to a crash site, SAFE drivers work to prevent secondary crashes from occurring at the scene.

Bill Hayes graduated from Transylvania University and served as a University of Kentucky Police Officer for 18 years. His knowledge in incident management is an asset to the branch in fulfilling its responsibilities. If you have questions concerning the SAFE Patrol, please contact Bill at 502-564-2080.

## Bonnie Childs Promoted to Branch Manager, General Administration

On April 16, Bonnie Childs was promoted to general administration branch manager for the Department of Transportation Safety. The branch is responsible for administrative functions, such as payroll, purchasing and personnel. Childs has been with the division since the Department of Transportation Safety was created in August 2006. Prior to that time, she served as administrative section supervisor overseeing credit card processing for the Division of Toll Facilities. She currently resides in Frankfort with her husband, David. She has two sons and two grandsons.



**Bonnie Childs**





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#### Upcoming Events

**June Aggressive Driving**  
**July Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving.**  
**Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.**

*(Continued from page 3)*

## **Buckle Up Kentucky: It's the Law**

"The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is pleased to join our safety partners during the Buckle-Up Kentucky 150 race to remind people to Buckle-Up and Drive Smart Kentucky," said Secretary Bill Nighbert. "Whether people are on the track or traveling across the Commonwealth, seatbelts save lives. Reducing injuries and fatalities on our roadways remains a top priority for Governor Fletcher's Administration."

Last year, in Radcliff, Kentucky, teenager Daniel "Boone" Redmon was killed in a traffic crash because he was not wearing a seat belt. Since Boone's death, his mother, Regina Hennequant has become an advocate for seat belt use to prevent other families from the pain and trauma her family has suffered by his death. The "Buckle Up Kentucky 150" race was dedicated to "Boone" and all those who lost their lives last year in traffic accidents.

Several events scheduled for race day included a pre-race concert by country music artist, Josh Gracin. Several educational exhibits were displayed and free give-away items promoting seat belt safety were distributed to fans. Character appearances by Buckle-up Bear and Vince and Larry (the crash-test dummies) are scheduled throughout the day for the children attending.

"Safety is our top priority here at the speedway. Launching the May seat belt campaign with "The Buckle Up Kentucky 150" is a tremendous way to raise the awareness for this worthwhile initiative" said Tim Bray, Director of Communications at Kentucky Speedway.

"A race car driver would never think of taking the track without buckling up, why should we? We hope we can reinforce the message to buckle up through the race on Saturday" added Bray.

Secretary Bill Nighbert was joined by Executive Cabinet Secretary Robbie Rudolph for the trophy presentation. Miss Kentucky, Rachele Phillips served as the honorary race starter.